

HISTORIC SITES ON CHEQUAMEGON BAY.<sup>1</sup>

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One of the earliest spots in the Northwest trodden by the feet of white men was the shore of Chequamegon Bay. Chequamegon is a corrupt form of *Jagawamikong*;<sup>2</sup> or, as it was written by Father Allouez in the Jesuit *Relation* for 1667, *Chagaouamigong*. The Chippewas on Lake Superior have always applied this name exclusively to Chequamegon Point, the long point of land at the entrance of Ashland Bay. It is now commonly called by whites, Long Island; of late years, the prevailing northeast winds have caused Lake Superior to make a break through this long, narrow peninsula, at its junction with the mainland, or south shore, so that now it is in reality an island. On the northwestern extremity of this attenuated strip of land, stands the government light-house, marking the entrance of the bay.

W. W. Warren, in his *History of the Ojibway Nation*,<sup>3</sup> relates an Indian legend to explain the origin of this name. Menabosho, the great Algonkin demi-god, who made the earth anew after the deluge, was once hunting for the great beaver in Lake Superior, which was then but a large beaver-pond. In order to escape his powerful enemy, the great beaver took refuge in Ashland Bay. To capture him, Menabosho built a large dam extending from the south shore of Lake Superior across the bay to Madelaine (or La

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<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, p. 419, for map of the bay.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> In writing Indian names, I follow Baraga's system of orthography, giving the French quality to both consonants and vowels.

<sup>3</sup> *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v.—Ed.